**Message from Principal**

Hi Everyone

Thank you to all those that attended our Meet the Teacher evening and our Protecting Kids Online Parent Evening presented by KidSafe. It was great to see some familiar faces and some new ones as well.

Communication with our parents is very important to us. One of our key goals in the implementation of our school vision is building a strong and cohesive home–school partnership. We organise events such as information evenings to enrich this partnership. Thank you to Clio Williams and Carla Temple for organising the event.

**SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

Another key part of our home school partnership is ensuring that all of our students attend school each day and on time. Attendance and punctuality is incredibly important for all students at our school. DEECD has also recently released new guidelines around student attendance. It is a requirement for parents to notify the school any time a student is absent from school. For extended periods written permission must be sought from the principal seeking approval.

In general, it is expected that principals would excuse absences for:
- medical and dental appointments, where out of hours appointments are not possible or not appropriate
- bereavement or attendance at the funeral of a relative or friend of the student, including a student required to attend Sorry Business
- school refusal, if a plan is in place with the parent to address causes
- cultural observance, if the parent notifies the school in advance
- family holidays, where the parent notifies the school in advance and the student completes any Student Absence Learning Plan agreed by the school, student and parent.

When a student is absent, parents are able to email notification of this, provide a written note or you can even use the Skoolbag App which has an Absentee Form under the eForms tab.

**T.A.S.K. PROGRAM**

One of my key focuses as Principal of Kew Primary is to ensure that as a school we use student achievement data effectively to inform and drive what we do in our classroom programs. We also have a strong focus on ensuring the very best start for students at our school. Last year we implemented a new program known as our TASK Program (Targeted Additional Support @ Kew). Our TASK program is designed to ensure that early readers who need extra support are provided with a structured program every day which focuses on their needs. The program was very successful last year and as a result we will continue to implement it this year. In fact, in 2015 we have been able to extend the scope of the support offered.
A letter with more detail about the program was sent home with all students that are currently involved in it. TASK will be coordinated by Robin Grace, Shelley Ware and Ali Duffy and also involve classroom teachers and parents. Students on the program will be constantly tracked and monitored so that the best results can be achieved. Our TASK program is one of my commitments to ensuring that students at KPS achieve their very best outcomes.

**STUDENT INSURANCE**

This is a reminder to all parents and carers that the Department does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents and guardians are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. These costs may be recoverable where an injury is caused by the negligence (carelessness) of the Department, a school council or their employees or volunteers. Student accident insurance policies at reasonably low cost are available from commercial insurers.

These cover a range of medical expenses not covered by Medicare or private health insurance. I encourage all families to investigate these options and make a decision that suits your needs and requirements. I also encourage everyone to ensure that their ambulance membership is up to date.

**STAFF CAR PARK ENTRY GATE**

I also need to remind all parents and students that the staff car park gate on Peel St is strictly for staff entry only. I have witnessed many students and parents accessing the school via this gate. This puts student safety at risk. Our staff and occasionally trades people use this entrance to drive in and out of and because our car park is so small we have to park multiple cars behind each other. This means that it is very difficult to move our cars in and out without also adding students walking amongst the cars as well. I have even seen parents access the gate using the keypad code. This is not permitted and I ask for your cooperation in this matter by walking the extra 50 metres down the road to enter via the school gate near the gym. If everyone follows this rule then our students will not be put at risk.

**ANAPHYLAXIS MANAGEMENT**

At Kew Primary School we have several students with severe allergic reactions that are potentially life threatening. For most of our students this relates to an exposure to a specific food or ingredient. We ask that students do not bring nuts or other high risk foods with their lunch. We also ask that cakes are not bought to school to celebrate birthdays but rather parents select other options such as fruit platters. It is also important to talk with your child’s teacher before sending in any food as a class treat to see if there are any children with these special dietary requirements in the class.

**OPTIONAL EXTRA’S AT KPS**

At our school we provide an extensive range of extra-curricular activities as part of our classroom and specialist curriculum program. These include Action Teams (Student Leadership Program), Kewriosity, CARE Program, camps and much more.

We also provide a range of “optional extras” that students can pay to participate in. These include instrumental music lessons, drama club, chess club, tennis lessons, Kelly Sports and Big 5 Sports.

This week I am highlighting two of these options:

**Beginner Mandarin: Mondays and Tuesdays after school in the Library.**

**Bricks for Kids: Thursday lunchtimes in the Library.**

It is not too late to enrol in any of these programs. Please collect a flyer from the office or keep your eye out in our newsletter for more details.

**CLASS REPS**

One of the great things about our school is the wonderful support and involvement our parent community provides us with. One of the main aspects of this support is our Class Rep program.
Class Reps provide a key link between our teachers and the parents, carers of their students. Our staff really appreciate this assistance and we are after a few more volunteers for this role in some of our classes.

Please contact your child’s teacher if you can assist and remember this role can be shared by a few parents.

FATHERS’ ASSOCIATION EVENT FOR THE MUMS, DADS & FRIENDS

We are very fortunate to have another chance to work with author Steve Biddulph who will present a session around “The Secret of Happy Children”.

When: Thursday 19th March – 7:30pm  Cost: $30
Where: Kew Primary School Gymnasium, Peel Street, Kew, 3101
Book online at: http://www.trybooking.com/GWVO

Please note that this invitation is to all of our parents and friends. There is more information on a flyer attached to this newsletter.

Be Worthy!

PS – not long till Round #1!

James Penson
Principal
Kew Primary School

Kew Primary School Blog

At our last assembly, Mr. Penson revealed that there was something that he really loved when he was young. Know what it was? Find out on this week’s blog.

Do you have something you’d like to share on the blog? All contributions are welcome. Please drop me a line at: katrina.w@ozemail.com.au

Katrina Whelen

Donations Required

Do you have any old encyclopedias lying around at home which you no longer need? If so, the library would welcome them to use for display projects. Please bear in mind these will not be returned.
Message from Assistant Principal

We, as a school community, value learning which is clearly evident by all our combined efforts to improve the learning outcomes for our students. Getting students to become engaged readers is a vital aspect of the learning process but for some students, most particularly boys, reading is tough.

Ruth Woolven, our Library Technician extraordinaire, provided the staff with a professional learning session in the Library last week. As well as showcasing all the new books, both fiction and non-fiction, Ruth supplied the staff with a number of interesting articles about reading. One such article, which resonated with me, was about boys who are reluctant readers and what can be done to engage them in the reading process. Here is a quote from this article which you may find just as interesting as I did. “Experts agree that when it comes to engaging boys with books, the key is reading with dads, uncles and grandfathers. When fathers engage with their sons in reading, the level of boys’ engagement, interest and participation are known to change. Dads are able to engage their sons in different ways with books, usually by hooking into shared interests and developing sustainable reading habits”. The article went on to give a number of tips for dads to help further develop quality reading habits with their sons. Here they are in a précised form:

- Spend quality time reading together
- Read different types of books
- Read about shared interests
- Use technology such as the many eReading apps which support graphic novels, comics, newspapers and magazines
- Above all laugh and have fun

On Monday, Clio Williams, Clare Connor and I, attended the district swimming carnival, with a group of our students who were representing Kew PS. Our students swam extremely well and a number of them will be going onto the divisional section of this competition. While all students gave a fine performance in the pool, it is their “out of the pool” behaviour that I want to comment about. They all cheered each other on, gave support to each other, congratulated each other and were great ambassadors for our school. Our CARE values were certainly being showcased by these students and I was extremely proud of them all. They were a credit to themselves, their parents and our school, so well done to you all.

Our Kitchen Garden is being prepared for sowing our autumnal and winter crops by Katie Braemar and her Grade One students, along with Kerry Lomas and the Green Thumbs Action Team. However, they would love to have some help so this is an appeal to our grandparents in the community. We thought it would be a great idea to have another generation represented at the school and as many grandparents have a love of gardening, thought this would be a perfect opportunity for us all. So if you are a keen gardener and a grandparent of any Kew Kid and you would like to help us out, we would be keen to hear from you.

Robin Grace
Sofie Laguna is an actor, author and playwright. Her many books for children have been published in the US and the UK and in translation throughout Europe and Asia.

Sophie will share her experiences of writing and reading in an interactive presentation for both parents and students designed to inspire reading.

Tuesday 24th March at 5pm in the Junior School Hall

$5.00 per family
Numbers are strictly limited and children must be accompanied by an adult.

Book at http://www.trybooking.com/HCCE
Screenagers!

Managing media is a constant struggle for parents. It feels like a relentless dilemma over how much is too much? Tablets and smartphones are creating a whole new level of challenge for families and it seems as if it is becoming increasingly difficult the smaller the devices get. The family computer in the lounge room is a dinosaur – extinct; and with many households having more individual handheld devices than occupants, it raises the challenge even more! Parents often feel challenged around screen time decision making. What we need to keep in mind is that it is a parenting issue familiar to so many other areas of our lives. As parents, one of our main tasks is to set limits on many things including bed time, household responsibilities, friends and behaviour. Setting rules and boundaries around media is no different. Here are some guidelines from the Australian Government’s website www.raisingchildren.net.au

How much time is screen time recommended for children?

Not much is the simple answer. Children under two should steer clear of the screen altogether. Children aged 2-5 years should have no more than an hour a day. And children aged 5-18 years should have no more than two hours. If children have been using digital devices at school, that leaves little screen time at home on weekdays.

A wide range of activities is important for children’s development. These activities include active physical play, creative and imaginative play, hands-on fun, and anything that involves relationships and interactions with real people.

Developing healthy screen time habits

Developing healthy screen time habits while they’re young will help children and teenagers make better choices about how to use their free time when they’re older. You can help by:

- setting screen time guidelines according to the ages of children in your family
- leading by example, limiting your own screen time
- offering variety, making sure you have a range of activities and objects to entertain and stimulate your children so they don’t look to the screen so much
- being choosy about what your younger children watch or play on the computer, and taking an interest in what your older children are doing online
- keeping TVs and computers in family spaces and out of children’s bedrooms
- turning the TV off before school and at dinnertime.

Madame T and the eSmart team
Optional Activities at Kew Primary School

Kew Primary School offers a range of Optional Activities for students to engage in learning experiences beyond the regular classroom curriculum. We offer a broad range of activities to ensure various opportunities are available, where students can explore areas of interest and build on their talents. Some examples of the Optional Activities program offered in 2014 are listed below. More information about the 2015 Optional Activities program will be available in February, 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mandarin Language</th>
<th>Tennis</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Melbourne Chinese School Monday and Tuesday 3.30pm – 4.30pm</td>
<td>Tennis in Stages Wednesday 0.15am – 0.45am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music (Instrumental)</td>
<td>Chess</td>
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<tr>
<td>Creative Music Lessons from 12pm-6pm Monday-Friday</td>
<td>Chees Club Friday lunchtimes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drama</td>
<td>Big 5 Sports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drama Time Thursday and Friday lunchtimes</td>
<td>Thursday after-school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelly Sports</td>
<td>Friday after-school</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The Optional Activities program at Kew Primary School is designed to both broaden and deepen the daily curriculum and extracurricular activities run by the school. The Optional Activities are run by committed and enthusiastic instructors with expertise in their given areas. Each activity has an associated cost and enrollment is made through the provider, not Kew Primary School. Information about the cost, dates, times and contact details throughout the year is sent out on individual flyers each term to keep you informed and up to date with any changes that may occur.

Kew Primary School  Peel Street, Kew, 3101 Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
TEL: +61 3 9853 8329  EMAIL: kew.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
Kew Primary School Fathers’ Association

We are delighted to have Steve Biddulph return to Kew Primary School with...

The Secret of Happy Children

This funny, emotionally powerful, but above all practical talk, covers both girls and boys from birth to 21. Topics include...

How to raise children with backbone and heart. Understanding your parenting style and what might be missing
Soft love and firm love, and when to use which
Discipline - it isn’t what you think
Helping your family to slow down and be more connected

Steve was a family psychologist for almost 30 years, and is one of the world’s best loved parenting authors. 130,000 parents in 27 countries have come along to his live talks. His books are in four million homes. Bring a friend or two, and enjoy a good night out that might even change your life.

When : Thursday 19th March – 7:30pm  Cost : $30
Where : Kew Primary School Gymnasium, Peel Street, Kew, 3101
Book online at
NB We regret that children and babies cannot be admitted to the talk.
OSHClub News
Before School / After School Care Program

Program Update

Last week we were busy in the kitchen, preparing pancakes for Pancake Tuesday which were enjoyed before school, and delicious pasta was made during after school care cooking on Tuesday and Thursday. Not only do we work together to prepare and cook the ingredients, but we also set the table so we can sit and enjoy our meals together.

We had a whole lot of fun inside performing in an impromptu talent show! Some children performed dance routines, while others performed comedy shows which provided many laughs. It was great to see everyone supporting each other to participate and share their talents with the group.

The straw and tape challenge we completed proved both fun and tricky for children of all ages! We worked in teams to create the tallest free standing tower with straws and one metre of tape... without talking!

Outside we enjoyed playing a range of games with the giant parachute, as well as soccer and tennis. The year six boys helped run dodgeball in the gym twice this week, and wow did we see some impressive throwing and catching skills!

We quite often receive your feedback about how much your children enjoy and look forward to coming to the program so I would like to share with you the thoughts from some of the children themselves who attend the program on a regular basis.

"OSHClub is fun. I like doing Hama Beads and painting!" Lilly 2GP
"I like OSHClub because we do science and the teachers at OSHClub are really nice and you get to play outside!" Eva 2BN
"I enjoy seeing my friends and playing games like dodgeball and soccer" Flynn 3/4J
"I like OSHClub because the teachers are awesome. I like playing games with the teachers and going outside. I love to colour-in and do cooking". Leilani 2MW

A selection of Next Week’s Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before Care Activities</td>
<td>Help About Me Heads</td>
<td>Minute to Win It</td>
<td>10 Pin Bowling Silent Ball</td>
<td>Simon Says Our Journal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After Care Activities</td>
<td>Paper Bag Autumn Tree</td>
<td>Soccer Skills</td>
<td>Markers Up Sports Collage</td>
<td>Playground Fun</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Octopus</td>
<td>Drama Games</td>
<td></td>
<td>Paper Mache Planets</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Parent Information

OSHC program phone: 0400 394 489
Coordinator: Jacinta
Assistant Coordinator: Lauren
Assistants: Niki, Harry
OSHClub Head Office: 03 85649000

All families must be enrolled to attend the program, remember this is Free!! Please create an account online at www.oshclub.com.au all bookings and cancellations can also be managed via your online account. For on the day bookings please contact the Coordinator direct at the program.
WE'RE OPEN!

LATITUDE

climbing • abseiling • over 100 trampolines

WE ARE OPEN!

BOOK ONLINE

www.latitudemelbourne.com

facebook.com/latitudemelbourne

590 Waterdale Rd, Heidelberg West

*ensure you arrive 15 minutes before each hour

SCHOLASTIC

Back to School

Warehouse Book Sale

50% TO 90% OFF!

2 DAYS ONLY!

When:
Thurs 5 March:
8am–5pm
Fri 6 March:
8am–5pm
Where:
Scholastic Warehouse
9–11 Northern Road
West Heidelberg

Wish List
- chapter books
- novels
- nonfiction books
- picture books
- activity books

scholastic.com.au

tweety beads

At Tweety Beads we create handcrafted jewellery in a beautiful range of colours.

Like our Facebook Page (Tweety BEADS) to keep up to date with our range, or phone 0418 701 905 for more information.
SECRET AGENT SOCIETY (SAS)

Presented by Irobatina Speech Pathologist Jean Barnes

Thursday March 12th 6.30pm — 7.30pm
You are invited to attend an information Evening
Presented at Irobatina Officer by Speech Therapist Jean Barnes
who is now trained to deliver the SECRET AGENT SOCIETY (SAS)
Social Skills program for children aged between 8 and 12.

SECRET AGENT SOCIETY (SAS)
Social Skills program for children
The world’s most renowned and evidence-based social skills program for children with social and emotional difficulties is now available in the Southern Region.
The SAS program uses animated technology, spy gadgets and games to teach new social and emotional skills to children who struggle with friendships and feelings.

To attend the information evening, please contact Jean Barnes or Bessie Loo at: Irobatina Childhood Autism Services - Officer site on 03 5943 5004
or email Reception - autism @irabina.com
For further information visit www.ssi-institute.net
Did you know that Kew Primary has ongoing fundraising accounts with clothing label/gift companies **Stuck on You** and **My Name Label**.

(This means that any orders result in monies coming back to Kew Primary School! And NO MORE LOST PROPERTY!!).

Orders can be made online, or forms are available from the Office.

**Stuck on You**

www.stuckonyou.com.au  (agent code: KEWPS)

**My Name Label**

www.mynamelabel.com.au  (agent code: cab6ee89)